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It is the present tendency of art museums to specialize to a greater or lesser extent. Many pay particular attention to Oriental ceramic art; others to coins, to Greco-Roman pottery, to Egyptian antiquities, to American ethnology and what not. There are many valuable public collections of all of the above, and the average Museum visitor will be impressed with their sameness. For instance, at least five of the prominent museums in the United States are competing with each other in the collection of Pueblo pottery and ethnological material of North America. None of the museums, except our own, however, has yet seriously entered the field of American art, which presents greater possibilities for original research and highly interesting results than any of the branches of European or Oriental art referred to above. What can be more appropriate for an American museum than the gathering together of a special collection illustrating the history of one of the arts in this country—a subject entirely new to investigators!

Specializing in this direction can be taken up without neglecting the other branches in the well-trodden fields of European and Oriental art. A rare opportunity is here presented for the establishment of a most effective memorial to a departed relative or friend by the donor of a sufficient amount to provide an income for the formation of a representative collection of, let us say, historical and modern American glass. No such collection exists to-day, yet it is possible to obtain the material if the necessary funds are available for the purpose. Examples of colored glassware made by Baron Stiegel, of Manheim, Pa., in 1769, can yet be procured, and early pieces of engraved glass from some of the old Pittsburg factories are known to exist. Interesting specimens of glassware, with patriotic and historical designs, made at numerous glass works in New England, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, from 1825 to 1850, are comparatively abundant, but will soon become rare. The modern art glasswares and stained glass and the superb creations in cut glass which are now being produced in this country should also be represented in an American art museum. Such a collection would be unique and instructive and would bring a world-wide reputation to the institution which shall be so fortunate as to secure it.

Another subject, of equal interest, which has not yet attracted the attention of the museums in America, is metal work, including the early pewter ware of Colonial days, many pieces of which bear the mark of American manufacturers, and silver and plate which was produced so extensively in the United States for a century or more, together with the art productions of the goldsmiths and silversmiths of a more recent period.

If some generous friend of the Museum will furnish a moderate fund for this purpose, it will be possible to form from the income a unique collection of objects illustrative of the history of one or both of these important industries in the United States, from the earliest times to the present day, which will supplement the fine collection of American pottery and porcelain which, through the liberality of Mr. John T. Morris, it has been possible to secure for the Museum, and which can never be duplicated or surpassed.

#### Offertory Fund

For some years past a number of glass globes have stood in various parts of the Museum for the reception of small contributions from visitors. These popular donations range

from one cent to one dollar. With this fund suitable objects are purchased for the Museum from time to time. The following is a partial list of objects which have been bought with these contributions:

Large porcelain vase, with underglaze decoration of cattle from the Royal Porcelain Factory, Copenhagen; bought at the World's Fair, Chicago; cost, \$150.

Two large Spanish vases and one plaque, with copper luster decorations, in Moorish style; bought at the Chicago Exposition; cost, \$61.

Large rose in wrought iron, worked out of a single piece of metal, from Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany; from the Chicago Exposition; cost, \$85.

Pair of porcelain vases; blue, with gold decoration; France; from the Chicago Exposition; cost, \$10.

A collection of American glass campaign tumblers and china plates, with portraits of Presidential candidates.

A series of seven glass vases, made in Germany, in imitation of old Cyprus glass; cost, \$26.

A large figure of Buddha, of carved and gilded wood; Japanese; cost, \$200.

Lace handkerchief, made about 1798. Lacemaker's pillow, with unfinished piece of lace, pins and bobbins, to show process of manufacture; cost of both, \$40.

Old china tureen, with dark blue view of the old State Capitol buildings, at Harrisburg, Pa.; made in Staffordshire, England, about 1830; cost, \$16.

Old shrine table, with beautifully carved panels and lacquer finish, from the Buddhist Temple of Sakai, Japan; made about 1650; cost, \$60.

Old temple table, handsomely carved and lacquered; Japanese; made about 1700; cost, \$85.

The contributors to this fund will naturally take a personal interest in the objects purchased with it. Nearly every visitor to the Museum can afford to deposit at least a trifling amount. If each one who visited the Museum in 1902 had contributed five cents, the offertory fund for the year would have reached the sum of \$22,880. If each person had given only one cent, the fund for the twelve months would have amounted to nearly \$5000.

In using this public fund the trustees endeavor to select such objects as will interest the largest number. The amount collected from the boxes during the past year was \$133.59.

#### Souvenir Post Cards

A series of souvenir post cards has been prepared and is now on sale at the Museum. It consists of views of the exterior and interior of the building and some of the more striking and important exhibits. The set of six views may be bought for ten cents. A sample set is mailed with this issue of the BULLETIN to each member of the Corporation.

#### The Museum Library

During the past year the library has been entirely rearranged and the volumes renumbered. Many important additions have been received, including a most valuable collection of twenty-five volumes on pottery and porcelain, the gift of Miss Mary and Miss Sarah Lewis; also a copy of the superb catalogue of paintings in the collection of Mr. P. A. B. Widener.